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In response to the Office Action dated February 9, 2001, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Rewrite claim 1 as follows:

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1. (Once Amended) A singles stick for holding the top edge of a tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for singles play, which comprises:

(a) a base and a staff which are slidably connected to one another such that the base and staff can be extended between an extended position and a collapsed position by sliding the base and staff relative to one another, [wherein the base and staff have a combined length in the extended position to properly position the tennis net for singles play when the singles stick is installed between the top edge of the net and the ground, and wherein the base and staff have a combined length in the collapsed position which is shorter than the combined length of the base and staff in the extended position and which does not exceed approximately 30 inches; and

(b) a lock for releasably holding the base and staff together in at least the extended position of the base and staff.

Cancel claim 9 without prejudice.

Rewrite claim 11 as follows:

Sub C<sup>3</sup>  
R<sup>2</sup>  
11. (Once Amended) A singles stick for holding the top edge of a tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for singles play, [the tennis net comprising a top support cord or cable forming a top edge of the net, a mesh-like net fabric suspended from the top support cord or cable, wherein the top support cord or cable of the tennis net is strung under tension between two end posts,] which comprises:

(a) a plurality of telescopically received sections including at least one first, hollow section into which a second section is telescopically received such that the first and second sections can be extended between an extended orientation and a collapsed orientation by telescoping the first and second sections relative to one another,;

(b) a lock for releasably holding the telescopic sections together in at least the extended position; and

(c) wherein the combined length of the telescopic sections in the locked extended position thereof is sufficiently long to permit the telescopic sections to be wedged between the top support cord or cable of the tennis net with the telescopic sections being held in place solely by downward force from the top support cord or cable forcing the telescopic sections into engagement with the ground, and wherein the telescopic sections can be wedged between the top support cord or cable and the ground at a location between a singles line and doubles line on one side of the tennis court and when so wedged the combined length of the telescopic sections will raise the top support cord or cable of the tennis net by an amount required to provide a height that conforms to singles play rules.

Cancel claims 15-19 without prejudice.

Add the following new claim 20.

Sub 47  
AB 20. (New) A singles stick for holding the top edge of a tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for singles play, [the tennis net comprising a top support cord or cable forming a top edge of the net, a mesh-like net fabric suspended from the top support cord or cable, wherein the top support cord or cable of the tennis net is strung under tension between two end posts,] which comprises:

(a) a base and a staff which are slidably connected to one another such that the base and staff can be extended between an extended position and a collapsed position by sliding the base and staff relative to one another;

(b) a lock for releasably holding the base and staff together in at least the extended position; and

(c) wherein the combined length of the base and staff in the locked extended position thereof is sufficiently long to permit the base and staff to be wedged between the top support cord or cable of the tennis net with the base and staff being held in place solely by downward force from the top support cord or cable forcing the base and staff into engagement with the ground, and wherein the base and staff can be wedged between the top support cord or cable and the ground at a location between a singles line and doubles line on one side of the tennis court and when so wedged the combined length of the base and staff will raise the top support cord or cable of the tennis net by an amount required to provide a height that conforms to singles play rules.